

## BRIEFS

## FEDERAL JUDGE RULES FOR BAPTIST PROGRAM

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—A U.S. district judge has thrown out a legal settlement that would have allowed the American Civil Liberties Union to review whether a Kentucky Baptist Convention (KBC) foster home program uses state funds to proselytize children. "That settlement was inappropriate and put an unnecessary burden on Sunrise, discriminating against Sunrise and not other private entities," KBC executive director Paul Chitwood said. "The court obviously agreed with that position, and we also see this as just another step in a very long process of protecting the rights of the faith-based provider in Kentucky."

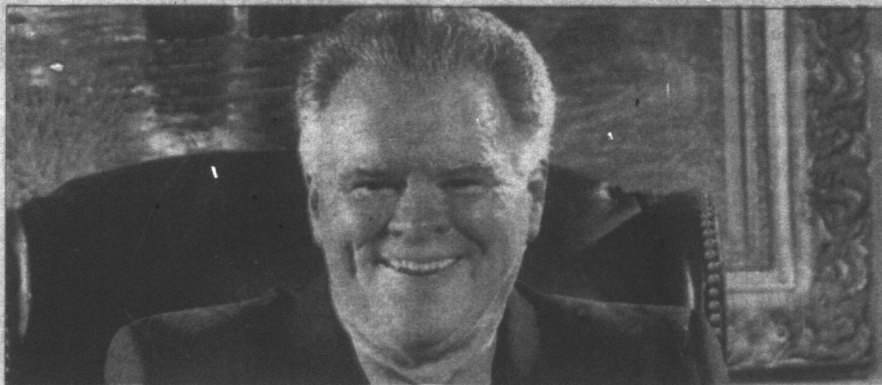
## MISSION:DIGNITY SEEKS ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

**DALLAS (BP)**—The MissionDignity ministry at Southern Baptists' GuideStone Financial Resources is searching for retired Southern Baptist ministers, workers, and their widows who need financial assistance — people who may find it hard to ask for help or may not know it's there. Pastors, directors of missions and Southern Baptists in general who may know a retired Southern Baptist pastor, worker, or his widow can refer them to MissionDignity for consideration at [MissionDignity.org](http://MissionDignity.org). To receive assistance, applicants must meet eligibility guidelines

## FORMER MISS. PASTOR SETTING RETIREMENT

DULUTH, Ga. (BP) — Former Mississippi Baptist pastor J. Gerald Harris, 77, will retire Dec. 31 from his position as editor of *The Christian Index*, the news journal of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board in Atlanta. Associate managing editor Scott Barkley, 44, a 14-year staffer at the Index, will be promoted to editor effective June 1, when Harris will assume senior editor status until his retirement. Harris, whose last Mississippi Baptist pastorate was Colonial Heights Church in Jackson, has served as editor of *The Index* since 2003 and plans to continue his writing and preaching ministry.

## Trustees reconsider, fire Patterson



Paige Patterson

## Southwestern severs ties after new details surface

**FORT WORTH, Texas (BP and local reports)** — Southwestern Seminary trustee who on May 22 moved seminary president Paige Patterson to emeritus and theologian-in-residence statuses, completely severed ties with the embattled leader of the Conservative Resurgence on May 30 after new information surfaced about his handling of on-campus rape reports at the two Southern Baptist seminaries he has headed.

Southwestern Seminary trustee chairman Kevin Uecker, lead pastor of First Church in Georgetown, Texas, in re-

sponse to what he said were "a number of follow-up questions," released a statement June 1 — two days after announcing Patterson's full termination by the executive committee of the seminary's trustees.

The statement specifically addressed Patterson's alleged mishandling of two incidents of reported rapes: one in 2003 at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., where Patterson previously served as president, and another at Southwestern Seminary in 2015.

Patterson has been under fire since late April for statements

he made in the past about women, domestic violence, and what was criticized by some observers as a sexually-charged reference to a teenaged girl's physical appearance.

Decker noted student record information provided to him with permission "contradicts a statement" by Patterson in response to a direct question by a trustee member regarding the 2003 incident at Southeastern Seminary, which was never reported to local law enforcement.

Neither the specific nature of the trustee's question nor Patterson's answer were detailed.

Ueckert's statement went on to address the rape reported in 2015. Authorities were notified of that report, according to

see PATTERSON on p. 7

## RECAP: Resurgence leadership in spotlight

**HOUSTON, Texas (Special)** — The year 2018 hasn't been a stellar time so far for some of the top leaders of the Conservative Resurgence, the name coined to describe the movement years ago that solidified control of the Southern Baptist Convention for conservatives.

Although not a secret, it

was reported that Paul Pressler, the retired Texas judge considered one of the prime movers behind the Conservative Resurgence, settled a 2004 lawsuit for \$450,000 in which he was accused of physical contact with a minor child in a church youth group. Pressler was leading at the time, according to a report in the Houston (Texas) Chronicle newspaper.

In addition, two other men who said they know Pressler have filed affidavits in another pending lawsuit, stating Pressler made aggressive sexual advances toward them in years past, the Chronicle reported.

see RECAP on p. 6



**PRESSLER**

## Supreme Court rules for Colo. baker

**WASHINGTON (BP and local reports)** — The U.S. Supreme Court delivered a landmark victory for religious liberty June 4 in ruling for a Colorado baker who refused to provide a wedding cake for a homosexual marriage.

The majority opinion, written by Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy, also harshly criticized the State of Colorado for its treatment of Jack Phillips.

In a 7-2 vote that included both conservatives and liberal justices, the nation's highest court ruled the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, an agency of the State of Colorado, violated the religious free exercise clause of the First Amendment by penalizing Phillips for declining to design and deco-

rate a cake for the wedding of the two men.

The commission forced Phillips to stop baking wedding cakes and ordered him to send his employees to anti-discrimination training.

The commission demonstrated "religious hostility" toward Phillips in its actions, the justices said, in a decision on one of multiple court cases involving wedding vendors who oppose using their talents in support of same-sex marriage.

The reason and motive for the baker's refusal were based on his sincere religious beliefs and convictions. The Court's precedents make clear that the baker, in his capacity as the owner of a business serving the public, might have his right to the free exercise of religion

limited by generally applicable laws," Kennedy wrote.

"Still, the delicate question of when the free exercise of his religion must yield to an otherwise valid exercise of state power needed to be determined in an adjudication in which religious hostility on the part of the State itself would not be a factor in the balance the State sought to reach."

"It's hard to believe that the government punished me for operating my business consistent with my beliefs about marriage," Phillips said in a written release. "That isn't freedom or tolerance."

The Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville filed a friend-of-the-court brief last year in support of Phillips.

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Alfie's story, our story

Remember when a candidate for national office was ridiculed and humiliated for suggesting that government-controlled national health care schemes would inevitably lead to "death panels," whereby political appointees in Washington, D.C., would be authorized to decide whether a person was eligible to receive lifesaving medical treatment and medications?

Politifact, a purportedly neutral fact-checking web site, gave their Lie of the Year award to the idea that death panels would have to be implemented under Obamacare legislation being debated in Congress at the time, given that the enormous costs of the program would mean that not everyone clamoring for health care would receive it.

Many people argued that rationing in the form of death panels would be necessary due to that fact.

Accusing Obamacare critics of creating a boogeyman to scare people, then-President Barack Obama said, "The notion that somehow I ran for public office or members of Congress are in this so that they can go around pulling the plug on Grandma? I mean when you start making arguments like that, that's simply dishonest."

The national news media and late night pseudo-comics were relentless in their attacks on the very concept of death panels. False intellectuals with no knowledge or background in medicine or science were adamant that such a process had no place in their national health plans.

Well, maybe death panels aren't yet here, but just wait. When bureaucratic creep sets in and death panels are eventually ratified, we will have taken from God for ourselves yet another right and responsibility that is His to decide.

England provides a recent, irrefutable example of what will happen when we reach that point in the life of this country.

Alfie Evans, a 23-month-old toddler, was sentenced to death when that country's government monopoly health bureaucracy decided that his young life was not worth saving. The critically-ill child was denied the medical attention he needed, and since there is no health care in England outside the government there was no place for his parents to take him for treatment.

His parents took Alfie's case to court, and lost. Even the country's legal system was deaf to Alfie's plight.

Hopes for Alfie were lifted when the medical community of Italy stepped up to offer Alfie treatment free of charge, including transportation to the European mainland and living expenses for his family while there. Alfie's own country's cruelty and indifference were met by love and sympathy from a country he had never visited.

As if to make Alfie's suffering all the greater, the English government refused permission for Alfie and his family to travel to Italy. England's death panel, whether *de facto* or not, had passed a death sentence for Alfie and intended to see it carried out. Budgets had to be met. Regulations had to be followed.

The bureaucrats got their wish. Alfie died April 28 when life support systems were removed from his tiny body. "Our baby boy grew his wings tonight at 2:30 a.m.," said his mother. "We are heart broken. Thank you everyone for all your support."

The Solicitors Regulation Authority, which regulates solicitors (attorneys) and law firms in England and Wales, immediately announced that it was launching an investigation into the involvement of Christian organizations in the campaign to overturn the government's death sentence for Alfie.

A spokesperson for the Authority said, "We can confirm we will review the information provided and consider if any next steps are appropriate. Only those authorised by a legal services regulatory such as the SRA are allowed to carry out reserved legal activities, as defined within section 12 of the Legal Services Act 2007, within the English and Welsh legal system."

So it goes in modern, ever-so-enlightened Western Civilization. If a child can be left to die at the hands of bureaucrats in a place like England — from whence we have absorbed so many of our social, cultural, legal, and governmental mannerisms — how long will it be before Alfie's story is commonplace here?

At the ever-declining value rate we place on God-given life in this country, it won't be long. Not long at all.

## The Problem of Evil

In his book, *The Cross of Christ*, John Stott said that the "fact of suffering undoubtedly constitutes the single greatest challenge to the Christian faith."

The ages-old problem of evil is the apparent conflict or contradiction between the existence of evil and suffering and the existence of an all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present God who is also perfectly good. As the problem goes, such a God would stop evil and suffering, if He existed. Another form of the problem of evil focuses on the amount of evil, suggesting that while God may have good reason for some evil, surely the amount of evil we experience makes it unlikely that the God of Scripture exists.

Why is this argument such a challenge to the Christian faith? For many people, the argument is not about logical inconsistencies, probability, or deductive logic. Rather, the problem of evil is about a sick child, an experience of abuse, personal exposure to horrific and traumatic evil, or perhaps the hurtful actions of Christian leaders.

The problem of evil often boils down to our inability to reconcile our belief in a good and loving God with our experience of sin, suffering, and evil. There are smart people who have offered lengthy defenses of God against the problem of evil. Such a defense is called a theodicy, and you can check out the free will defense by C.S. Lewis' or Alvin Plantinga's or Gordon Clark's view of sovereign decree.

On a practical level, ministers can answer this question by turning the question back on the person who is raising the objection. As Christians, we need to give an account of why evil exists. The good news is that the problem itself is understandable because we know who God is, we know what evil is, and we know why it is a problem.

An atheist, however, in raising the problem of evil must answer: If there is no God, why is evil, evil? As Christians,



### Guest opinion

with Adam Groza

we believe that evil is that which fails to reflect the beauty, goodness, or will of God. As Augustine said, evil is "deprived of good." (Augustine, *Confessions*, VII: [XII] 18)

When an atheist points to the evil in the world as proof that God doesn't exist, he faces much bigger problems: If not for God, what constitutes evil? A person who rejects God still lives in a world with suffering and evil, yet cannot explain why suffering and evil are bad. A person who rejects God lives in a world with suffering and evil, yet without any hope of future redemption and salvation, without any future reward for the righteous, punishment for the wicked, and vindication for the abused.

Psalm 14:1 says, "The fool says in his heart, 'There's no God.'" One aspect of the foolishness of unbelief is that, apart from God, the evils of suffering, abuse, persecution, and injustice fail to be evil. If not for God, evil ceases to be evil. If not for a perfectly just Creator revealed in Christ, the very idea of injustice becomes meaningless. If there is no God and no *Imago Dei*, then moral outrage is reduced to collective emotionalism, social posturing, or political maneuvering.

The problem of evil makes us realize just how much we need God.

Groza is a vice president and associate professor of philosophy of religion at Gateway Seminary in Ontario, Ca., and serves on staff at Del Cerro Church in San Diego, Ca. His commentary appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.

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# ACP shows attendance, giving rise; baptisms shrink

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) expanded by more than 270 churches in 2017. More people showed up for weekly worship services, and congregations gave more generously in a strengthening economy.

However, reported baptisms and membership declined as fewer churches participated in the SBC's Annual Church Profile (ACP).

Longstanding patterns continued to dominate the ACP, which is compiled by LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC in Nashville, in cooperation with Baptist state conventions:

■ The number of churches cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention grew for the 19th consecutive year, reaching 47,544. That's a 16.3% increase in churches since 1997.

■ Membership fell for the 11th consecutive year, to 15 million. Since 2006, Southern Baptist congregations have lost about 1.3 million members.

■ Baptisms also declined, as they have for eight of the past 10 years. Congregations reported baptizing 254,122 people — 26.5% fewer than in 2007. The latest ratio was one baptism for every 59 church members.

"It's heart-breaking to be baptizing fewer people for Christ, even though Southern Baptists have nearly 2,900

more churches than we had a decade ago," said LifeWay President Thom S. Rainer.

"Yet a quarter million baptisms is not an insignificant number. We praise God for every individual who has come to Christ and followed Him in baptism. It is my prayer that God would embolden Southern Baptists to share the Gospel with their friends and neighbors.

"We know conversion is only by the Holy Spirit, but we also know God begins most of these conversions with Gospel conversations."

## Fewer reports

The ACP numbers don't tell the full story of baptisms or other measurables among Southern Baptist churches.

Despite the best efforts of associations and state conventions across the country, 26% of churches did not participate, said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research.

Seventy-four percent of churches participated in the 2017 ACP survey by reporting at least one item. That's down from 80% in 2013 and 77% in each of the last three years.

For that reason, reported totals do not include all of the activity within Southern Baptist life, though the summary

does include adjustments in some categories for non-reporting congregations.

This summer, LifeWay Research plans to release statistical analysis of the current state of the SBC that includes estimates of the congregations that did not report.

"Reports from congregations are the most accurate way to tell the story of the entire convention," McConnell said, urging churches to participate in future ACP surveys.

Despite the lower participation rate, the ACP report shows increases in some areas.

Average attendance at weekly worship services climbed 2.3% to 5.3 million, an increase of nearly 120,000. That's comparable to adding every man, woman, and child in a city like Wilmington, N.C., or Beaumont, Texas, to the church pews every week.

States outside the South reported some of the strongest signs of growth. California now has 47 more congregations and Michigan has 24 more congregations than the previous year. Those figures include churches along with church-type missions — congregations that are not fully independent or self-sustaining.

Non-Southern states are now home to 21.3% of Southern Baptist churches and 32.2% of church-type missions.

Reported baptisms nearly doubled in Colorado and rose 31.0% in Iowa, 17.6% in Alaska, and 13.4% in New Mexico. In North and South Dakota, weekly worship attendance grew by 20.8% while baptisms climbed 34.8%.

Overall, Southern Baptist churches reported 4,376 church-type missions last year, down 2.6% from 2016. The count of churches and missions combined is 51,920 congregations.

## Giving, missions

Southern Baptists saw an increase in overall giving of almost \$267 million. Total and undesignated church receipts reported through the ACP increased 3.3% and 2.3% respectively.

Reported mission expenditures fell by about four million dollars in 2017. However, the numbers are not directly comparable since there were changes in how many and which state conventions collected this statistic.

Congregations reported total mission expenditures of just under \$1.2 billion.

Individual congregations voluntarily report their ACP data to their local Baptist associations and/or their state conventions. National statistics are compiled and released when all cooperating state conventions have reported.

## Annual Church Profile Statistical Summary

### 2017 Southern Baptist Convention Statistical Summary

| Item/Statistic                       | 2017      | 2016      | 2017-2016<br>Numeric Change | 2017-2016<br>Percent Change |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Associations                         | 1,131     | 1,136     | -5                          | -0.44%                      |
| Church-type Missions <sup>(1)</sup>  | 4,376     | 4,492     | -116                        | -2.58%                      |
| Total Baptisms                       | 254,122   | 280,773   | -26,651                     | -9.49%                      |
| Weekly Worship<br>Average Attendance | 5,320,488 | 5,200,716 | 119,772                     | 2.30%                       |

#### NOTES:

1. Some state conventions no longer use the designation of church-type missions to categorize congregations which are not self-determining, self-sustaining, and self-propagating. This practice has impacted the number of churches and church-type missions.
2. Cooperative Program is reported on the Annual Church Profile but is not included in this table. CP based on the actual amount given through the state conventions, as reported in the SBC Annual in the Executive Committee Annual Report.

### Other 2017 Items — Not Asked by All State Conventions<sup>1</sup>

| Item/Statistic   | 2017             | 2016             |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Other Additions  | 167,788          | 204,365          |
| Sunday School/Bible Study/Small Group<br>Average Attendance <sup>(2)</sup> | 3,345,526        | 3,303,164        |
| Undesignated Expenditures <sup>(3)</sup>                                   | \$9,518,257,951  | \$9,216,198,709  |
| Total Receipts <sup>(4)</sup>  | \$11,728,420,088 | \$11,461,572,538 |
| Total Mission Expenditures <sup>(5)</sup>                                  | \$1,185,509,039  | \$1,189,656,879  |
| Great Commission Giving <sup>(6)</sup>                                     | \$593,980,600    | \$646,017,306    |

#### NOTES:

1. Totals for items in this table have preliminary data for 2017 due to the fact that not all state conventions asked the item or did so in a way not comparable with the standard definition. Similar additions occurred in 2016. Thus, comparisons between the two years may not be appropriate. See the Notes in the 2016 SBC Statistical Summary for specific details to determine if a comparison is desirable.
2. Baptist Convention of New York, California Southern Baptist Convention, Florida Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
3. Florida Baptist Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
4. Baptist Convention of New York did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
5. Baptist Convention of New York and California Southern Baptist Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
6. Alabama State Board of Missions, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Baptist Convention of New York, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.

May 22, 2018

Prepared by: LifeWay Insights, LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234

### 2017 SBC Statistics by State Convention<sup>(1)</sup>

| SBC and State Conventions                | Associations | Churches <sup>(2)</sup> | Church-type Missions <sup>(3)</sup> | Baptisms       | Other Additions <sup>(4)</sup> | Total Membership  | Weekly Worship Average Attendance | Sunday School/Bible Study/Small Group Average Attendance | Total Receipts <sup>(5)</sup> | Total Mission Expenditures <sup>(6)</sup> |
|--|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Alabama                                  | 12           | 84                      | 31                                  | 487            | 389                            | 13,448            | 6,824                             | 4,838  | \$1,239,888                   | \$1,048,101                               |
| Alaska                                   | 1            | 27                      | 13                                  | 1,242          | 1,048                          | 85,303            | 47,387                            | 29,473   | \$5,475,416                   | \$4,984,943                               |
| Arizona                                  | 1            | 1,008                   | 419                                 | 1,176          | 1,176                          | 27,523            | 27,523                            | 27,523   | \$1,100,000                   | \$1,100,000                               |
| California                               | 11           | 2,013                   | 1,165                               | 17,183         | 833                            | 24,249            | 21,344                            | 14,344   | \$1,297,121                   | \$4,188,820                               |
| Colorado                                 | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Connecticut                              | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Delaware                                 | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| District of Columbia                     | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Florida                                  | 40           | 2,213                   | 334                                 | 34,917         | 104,972                        | 387,389           | 387,389                           | 387,389  | \$4,326,141                   | \$1,048,101                               |
| Georgia                                  | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Hawaii                                   | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Idaho                                    | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Illinois                                 | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Indiana                                  | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Iowa                                     | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Kansas                                   | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Kentucky                                 | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Louisiana                                | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Maine                                    | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Maryland                                 | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Massachusetts                            | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Michigan                                 | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Minnesota                                | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Mississippi                              | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Missouri                                 | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Montana                                  | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Nebraska                                 | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Nevada                                   | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| New Hampshire                            | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| New Jersey                               | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| New Mexico                               | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| New York                                 | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| North Carolina                           | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| North Dakota                             | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Ohio                                     | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Oklahoma                                 | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Oregon                                   | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Pennsylvania                             | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Rhode Island                             | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| South Carolina                           | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| South Dakota                             | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Tennessee                                | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Texas                                    | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Utah                                     | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Vermont                                  | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Virginia                                 | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Washington                               | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| West Virginia                            | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Wisconsin                                | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| Wyoming                                  | 1            | 1                       | 1                                   | 1              | 1                              | 1                 | 1                                 | 1  | \$1,000                       | \$1,000                                   |
| <b>Grand Total for SBC<sup>(7)</sup></b> | <b>1,131</b> | <b>47,544</b>           | <b>6,576</b>                        | <b>254,122</b> | <b>187,735</b>                 | <b>13,808,838</b> | <b>5,320,488</b>                  | <b>3,345,526</b>   | <b>\$11,728,420,088</b>       | <b>\$1,185,509,039</b>                    |

#### NOTES:

1. All information as of May 23, 2018.
2. State statistics are based on the designation of church-type missions to categorize congregations which are not self-determining, self-sustaining, and self-propagating. This practice has impacted the number of churches and church-type missions.
3. Total reported by congregations does not include state conventions, but includes state conventions that are not self-determining, self-sustaining, and self-propagating.
4. Includes baptisms of converts to Christianity from other religions, and baptisms of converts to Christianity from other denominations.
5. Includes receipts of state conventions, but excludes receipts of churches, associations, and other entities.
6. Includes mission expenditures of state conventions, but excludes mission expenditures of churches, associations, and other entities.
7. The grand total for the SBC is the sum of the totals for all state conventions, but excludes the totals for churches, associations, and other entities.

May 22, 2018

Prepared by: LifeWay Insights, LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234

The other day I saw two birds engaged in a fierce fight. One was a large, black-colored bird. It was so large and because of the distinct sound, I think it was a crow. The crow was fluttering and flying, trying to fend off another bird about a fifth his size. I saw later that the other bird was a mockingbird. It is not unusual to see this kind of entanglement, especially if the large crow is getting too close to the nest or even going to the nest of the mockingbird. They were in a real battle.

The crow seemingly was trying to get away from the mockingbird but wasn't making any progress because the mockingbird was faster, quicker, and fluttering in every direction, frustrating the old crow. I actually began to feel sorry for the big, black bird because he couldn't get away. It was like he had poked his nose into a place that he shouldn't have and couldn't get away quick enough. In fact, he couldn't escape at all. Every way he turned, there was that mockingbird squawking and fluttering and being a real pain to the old crow. I watched them for several minutes wanting to help if I could, but I couldn't. I did learn some valuable lessons from the bird fight right there in front of me.

One of the valuable lessons I learned was the big bird doesn't always win. Seriously, the larger bird was four or five times larger than the mockingbird. It didn't matter. He didn't have a chance. The mocker just kept on pestering him. I think that probably the crow had found the nest and maybe even had come to the nest and the mockingbird was having no part in him staying there. If these two birds got in a fight, who do you think would win? We



## Lessons Learned from a Bird Fight

often pick the much larger crow but no, not on your life. The big bird was taking a beating.

There's a great and glorious biblical truth found throughout Scripture, and it is just because you're big does not mean you're going to win the battle. Just think about the times the battle went to the small and scrawny. Of course, David and Goliath is a primary example, even to the point that Goliath, the big bird, made fun of David, the little scrawny creature that came out to take him on. Yet David, bold and filled with the power of God, took on Goliath and told him that God would fight his battles. He was victorious.

The same truth can be applied to Daniel when he was going to be thrown into the lion's den. The den was filled with lions who were ready to attack

and destroy anything thrown in there to them, except when it was a little fellow named Daniel. Can you imagine what it must feel like to be a lion in a den of Daniels? If those lions wanted to eat and devour him, there is not much anybody could have done but the big lions did not win the battle. God shut their mouths. What a revealing event that is in the book of Daniel. God shut the mouths of the lions. What a blessing it is in this world of loose tongues and fast lips when God intervenes and at times shuts some people's mouths.

A second great truth that is found in the bird fight was that passion, energy, and inspiration go a long way to winning the battles. That little mockingbird looked like a gray banty rooster. I mean she was on all four sides of the

crow when that's not even possible. She was worked up into a frenzy and battling for her nest and children. It would be no contest, not because she was bigger or stronger or even faster, but because she was inspired. I think of what Scripture says in Ecclesiastes 9:10, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it...." Give it your best. Pour your energy, life, and passion into it and see what happens.

What is going to happen is that when we give it our best, inspiration and passion win the day. The old saying is true: "It's not the size of the dog in the fight but the size of the fight in the dog that makes the difference." Oh, that the people of God with big issues and big needs and big critical events in front of us would have a heart of passion of godly energy to be expended against those things that are hurtful and harmful and destructive around us.

A third thing that I learned is rather obvious, but sometimes it doesn't appear to be obvious to human beings. The point is don't spend all your time fighting with other birds around you. It is fruitless, pointless, and non-productive. Too many of our people, too many churches get all wrapped up in fusses and fights that even if won, there is no winner and everybody loses. Don't spend all your time, energy, and abilities just fighting. I know sometimes there is something at stake, but sometimes it's just that you don't like to be around those crows or mockingbirds. Expend your life and energy on good things, God's things, eternal things.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

## College News



**BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE** associate head coach Ken Hardwick, Corinth, has been named interim head coach of BMC softball. He takes over while the college looks for a replacement for former coach Tyler Herring.

### In other College News:

► **Mississippi College** is hosting a reception at the Southern Baptist Convention June 12, 5 - 7 p.m., in Room C141 of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center.

► **Blue Mountain College Athletics** has announced that USA Baseball will be hosting tryouts June 13 at the BMC Sportsplex in a one-day event. Since 1978, USA Baseball has been the national governing body for the sport of baseball. It represents the sport in the United States as a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) and internationally as a member federation of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC). During the tryout, 15U, 16U and 17U age groups will be evaluated by the USA Baseball Task Force. The group will assess athletes through different drills in a pro-style workout to evaluate footwork, hand speed, batting skills, etc.

## Staff Changes

**LIBERTY CHURCH, WAYNESBORO**, has called Phil Rogers as pastor Jan. 28, assuming the pastorate Apr. 15. He and his wife Wendy were missionaries to Chile for 25 years.



## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Leaf River Church, Pineville:** 169th homecoming, June 10; Glory Bound, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck dinner and cemetery association 61st annual meeting, 2 p.m.

► **Providence Church, Tiptonville:** Homecoming and 164th anniversary, June 10; services, 10:30 a.m. with Pilgrim's Quartet and Eugene Walden, speaker, and fellowship meal.

► **Laurel Hill Church, Neshoba County:** Homecoming, June 10, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck meal; Jason Willis, speaker; Larry Winstead, music; Ricky Callaway, pastor.

► **Coldwater Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, June 10, 10:30 a.m.; Dudley Winstead, speaker; Steve Turner, music.

## BIBL i O C I P H E R

FRAD NA QBA KTQAW, QBTQ QBA

OZKBQAFSW DTQZFD GBZMB IAARAQB

QBA QOSQB JTN ADQAO ZD.

ZWTZTB QGADQN-WZU:QGF

Clue: N = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: 2 Peter 2:9

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 7, 2018

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



## SAVE THE DATE!

### Ministry Assistants Professional Training Course and Skillshops

Skillshops offered this year:  
Designing Professional Publications and Office Management

September 11-13, 2018  
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

More details coming soon!

Contact Pastor/Leadership Development at [vcclary@mbcb.org](mailto:vcclary@mbcb.org)  
or call 601-292-3305 for more information.



## LEADERSHIP

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018  
6:00-8:45 p.m.

Macedonia Baptist Church  
Brookhaven

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018  
6:00-9:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church  
Brookhaven

Visit [www.msleadershipu.org](http://www.msleadershipu.org) for registration and lists of classes offered!

For more information, please contact Discipleship/Family Ministry at 601-292-3284 or e-mail [tpresson@mbcb.org](mailto:tpresson@mbcb.org)

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTERS' RETREAT

MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018  
8:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

RIISING SON RETREAT CENTER  
444 LAKE ROAD  
FRENCH CAMP, MS 39745

### ~ KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ~

Tommy Gillon, Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus  
Stan Weatherford, Copiah Baptist Association

\$25 REGISTRATION FEE DUE BY AUGUST 6  
OPEN TO ANYONE WHO MINISTERS TO SENIOR ADULTS

To register, visit [www.mbc.org/senior-adult-ministry](http://www.mbc.org/senior-adult-ministry). For questions, contact Discipleship/Family Ministry at 601-292-3284 or e-mail [tpresson@mbcb.org](mailto:tpresson@mbcb.org).



# MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS MOBILIZATION

CONNECTING » GOSPEL » RELATIONSHIPS

**Make an eternal investment with your  
2018 VBS Missions Offering.**

Missions Mobilization of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board invites you to participate in the Home Building Project in Malaysia. For the 8th year in a row, we are collecting VBS offerings to build longhouses in Malaysia. Please consider setting a goal for your VBS to collect \$1,400 to provide a home for a family in Malaysia. The offerings received will purchase the building materials. Missions Mobilization will send the volunteer construction teams to provide the labor, alongside the Malaysian families. In the past six years 608 decisions have been made for Christ and 371 homes have been built.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/MSLonghouse> for promo materials. Contact Missions Mobilization at 601-292-3398 or [cmunn@mbcb.org](mailto:cmunn@mbcb.org) for more information.

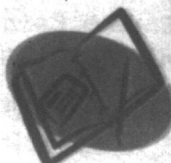
## Church Financial Resources

CHURCH  
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2018 UPDATE

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For more information, contact the Stewardship Department at 601-292-3347 or [ileaveit@mbcb.org](mailto:ileaveit@mbcb.org).



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**Need help with  
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Mississippi Baptist churches  
are utilizing endowed funds  
for cemetery maintenance.

Call the Foundation at 601.292.3210,  
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[Foundation@mbcb.org](mailto:Foundation@mbcb.org)  
to find out how we can serve you.

## MEDIA CONSULTATION

Communication Services stands ready to help you with your church media needs. Through direct consultations, we can help you evaluate your media ministry or other specified topics, such as projection systems, sound systems, etc. Churches may request a media consultation by calling or e-mailing our office.

For more information, contact Ian Richardson at 601-292-3378 or [irichardson@mbcb.org](mailto:irichardson@mbcb.org).



LITERACY MISSIONS  
CONFERENCE



JULY 26-28, 2018

# LITERACY FOR LIFE

## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

# LIFE FOREVER

HEBREWS 13:20-21

★ ★ ★

GARAYWA CAMP &  
CONFERENCE CENTER

If you would like to be certified in teaching English as a second language, tutoring children and youth, or adult reading and writing, this conference is for you. Additional training will be offered for certified tutors. Sponsored by WMU/WM. For more information, visit [www.mbc.org/event/state-literacy-missions-training](http://www.mbc.org/event/state-literacy-missions-training) or contact Cindy Heimbach, State Literacy Missions Coordinator, at [cindyheimbach@msn.com](mailto:cindyheimbach@msn.com) or 662-417-3944.

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# THE LEADER I WANT TO BE



AUGUST 16, 2018

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FOR MORE INFORMATION.

A ONE DAY EVENT WITH JOHNNY HUNT



## TOUR DATES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13 | 6:00 p.m.  
First Baptist Church  
Columbia, MS

THURSDAY, JUNE 14 | 6:30 p.m.  
First Baptist Church  
Picayune, MS

FRIDAY, JUNE 15 | 6:30 p.m.  
Clarke-Venable Baptist Church  
Decatur, MS

SATURDAY, JUNE 16 | 6:00 p.m.  
Calvary Baptist Church  
West Point, MS

SUNDAY, JUNE 17 | 9:15 a.m.  
West Jackson Street Baptist Church  
Tupelo, MS

SUNDAY, JUNE 17 | 5:00 p.m.  
Belden Baptist Church  
Belden, MS

MONDAY, JUNE 18 | 6:30 p.m.  
First Baptist Church  
Jackson, MS

Contact the Church Music Department for  
more information at [cwtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mbcb.org) or  
call 601-292-3267.

Pray this day for...

June 8 - June 21, 2018

*"praying at all times in the Spirit... To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."*  
Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Sheila Flowers**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through administration.

Pray for: **Clarence Frank & Phoebe Harrison**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

Pray for: **Kenneth & Kimberly Hathcock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Cynthia Hodgins**, missionary ministering to Deaf Peoples through church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Jeffery & Lissa Holman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Daniel & Claudia Hood**, missionaries ministering to North African and Middle Eastern Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard Jones**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Susan Jones**, missionary ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert Mooney**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.



Mr. J.Y.  
8/9/03  
Parents: T & J  
Restricted

Mr. Evan Epps  
8/10/07  
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany  
American Peoples Group

Miss Elizabeth  
8/15/07  
Parents: R & M  
Restricted

Mr. Micah  
8/20/10  
Parents: J & C  
Restricted

Miss Braelyn Olivia  
8/22/13  
Parents: K & C  
Restricted

Mr. J.S.  
8/26/08  
Parents: S & M  
Global Resource Team

Mr. Micah  
8/27/09  
Parents: R & M  
Restricted

To Be Sent July 20, 2018, by the WMU Office



**PLEASE NOTE THE TIMING:** Thank you for your love and support of MKs by sending Birthday cards! Because of the sending to other countries, there is a need to get cards sent a month ahead of birthday. As soon as the list is in the Baptist Record, please send the cards and not wait until a couple of weeks before the date of the birthday. It is posted two months ahead. I do give time to receive cards and then to mail them a month ahead of time to insure arrival around birthday. Again, thank you for being a blessing to so many with this ministry.

**NOTE:** Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

**FOR SECURITY:** cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

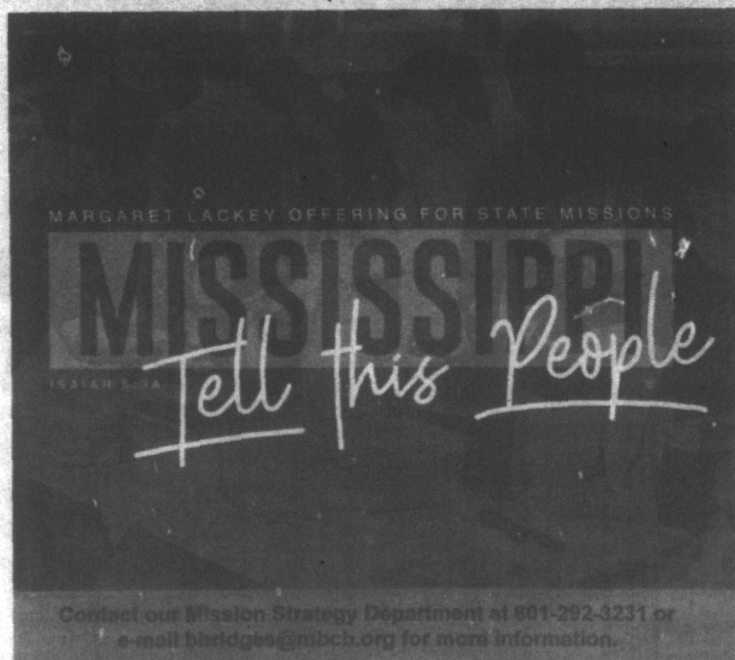


**HeartSong Music Youth Camp**  
(6th-12th Graders)  
June 26-30, 2018

Southwest Mississippi Community College  
Summit, MS

Please contact Church Music for registration forms and more info at 601-292-3267 or visit <http://www.mccb.org/church-growth/church-music>.

**HOUSE TOPS**



Contact our Mission Strategy Department at 601-292-3231 or e-mail [bbridges@mccb.org](mailto:bbridges@mccb.org) for more information.



## Vacation Bible School

► **Bellevue Church, Thaxton:** Each Wednesday night June 13 – July 25, 6 – 8:30 p.m.; Pre K – adult.

► **New Henleyfield Southern Church, Carriere:** June 11 – 15, 6 – 8:30 p.m.



### EVANGELIST CHRIS BROADHEAD

601.550.9565  
chrisbroadhead5714@gmail.com

Evangelist Chris Broadhead is available for revivals, pulpit supply, or in any direction in which the Lord may lead. Bro. Broadhead is an evangelist who is committed to traditional, Holy Ghost, Bible based preaching and the conservative views of the Baptist doctrine. Bro. Broadhead is a member of Magnolia Baptist Church and is pursuing his degree in church ministries. He is married and resides in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He can be contacted by phone, text, or email at: 601.550.9565 or Chrisbroadhead5714@gmail.com

## Brandon woman to facilitate panel at SBC annual meeting

DALLAS (BP) — Women & Work: Stepping into Kingdom Productivity will host a panel discussion at its inaugural meeting June 12, at 7 p.m. in Room C144, Level 1, in the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Dallas.



MOORE

The discussion will be facilitated by Courtney L. Moore of Brandon, founder of Women & Work. Panelists include:

■ Kelly King, women's ministry specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

■ Amy Whitfield, director of marketing & communications at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

■ Lauren Green McAfee, corporate ambassador for Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. in Oklahoma City.

■ Mary Wiley, LifeWay marketing strategist for women's books.



KING



WHITFIELD



McAfee



WILEY

Women & Work launched in April 2018 to foster conversation on "how women can honor God and flourish in their work, productivity and fruitfulness," Moore said in a news release, voicing a vision "to see women confidently step into the marketplace and view their work as meaningful to His Kingdom."

Panelists will discuss their practical and theological perspectives of work, flourishing as women in the workplace, and how they steward the gifts God has given them in their respective jobs.

"As a mom of two toddlers," Wiley said in the news release, "work looks different than it did just three years ago. My job hasn't changed, but I'm now constantly reminded of the need for my work to matter and to leave a faithful legacy."

"I'm so thankful we don't work like the world, but are invited to join God in what He is doing and use our gifts for His glory, making even the seemingly most mundane work eternally valuable."

The first 200 attendees will receive panelist Amy Whitfield and her colleague Keith Harper's new book, *SBC FAQs: A Ready Reference*; Caroline McCulley and Nora Shank's book, *The Measure of Success: Uncovering the Biblical Perspective of Women, Work and the Home*; LifeWay's *Journey Magazine*; and LifeWay Women's resource catalog.

Questions for the panelists may be submitted in advance at [womenwork.net/events](http://womenwork.net/events). Those who would like to attend the free event can register at [womenwork.net/events](http://womenwork.net/events).

## Supreme Court allows Arkansas abortion regulation to stand

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court's refusal May 29 to hear Planned Parenthood's challenge of an Arkansas abortion law could allow the Natural State to become the first state to effectively outlaw medication-induced abortions.

"I am thankful for the discernment used by the U.S. Supreme Court to not address this issue," Sonny Tucker, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, told Baptist Press (BP) via e-mail.

"The regulation in question is a common sense regulation to protect people from an industry that wants unfettered access to abortion at will, without the normal medical protocol in which other medical professions must abide," he said.

A 2015 Arkansas law which requires doctors who provide medication abortions to contract with a specialist with hospital admitting privileges to handle complications was temporarily blocked by a federal judge in 2016.

A three-judge panel of the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the ruling last year, stating the district judge erred by not determining how many women would be unduly burdened by the law, according to media reports.

The Supreme Court's denial of an appeal by Planned Parenthood of Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma means the law will take effect in mid-July if no other legal challenges are filed, CNN reported.

In 2016, the Supreme Court overturned a similar law in Texas by a 5-3 majority. In today's order, however, not even the court's liberal judges published a dissent.

Planned Parenthood said it has offered pills to terminate pregnancies in Fayetteville and Little Rock but cannot find any Arkansas obstetricians willing to handle hospital admissions for women with complications, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported.

The nation's largest abortion provider will stop providing medication abortions in Arkansas at least temporarily, Planned Parenthood told media outlets, and seek emergency relief from the Eighth Circuit ruling in a lower court.

"Arkansas is now shamefully responsible for being the first state to ban medication abortion," Dawn Laguens, Planned Parenthood Federation of America's executive vice president, said in a statement.

"This dangerous law immediately ends access to safe, legal

abortion at all but one health center in the state. If that's not an undue burden, what is? This law cannot and must not stand. We will not stop fighting for every person's right to safe, legal abortion."

The medication abortions referenced in Arkansas' law employ two drugs to kill an unborn child early in pregnancy: Mifepristone makes it difficult for the child to attach to the uterine wall, and misoprostol causes the mother's body to expel the baby.

According to the pro-choice Guttmacher Institute, medication abortions accounted for nearly a 31% of all non-hospital abortions in the U.S. in 2014 and 45% of all abortions before nine weeks' gestation.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention President Greg Sykes, pastor of First Church, Russellville, told BP, "Arkansas has enough challenges without failing to protect the most vulnerable — the unborn. I'm grateful that we are finally crafting laws that protect our children, and I know Southern Baptists are going to continue to seek ways to protect all children and help them to experience one of God's most precious gifts: life."

"Legal wins in our generation are rare, but we'll gladly rejoice at this one," Sykes said in an e-mail.

Join us for a celebration on

### SUNDAY, JUNE 10

at First Baptist Church in downtown Dallas!

Services at 9:15 & 10:50 a.m.

GuideStone

Celebrating 100 years of service



Dr. O.S. Hawkins, GuideStone President and former First Baptist Dallas Pastor

First Baptist  
DALLAS

Celebrating 150 years of ministry



Dr. Robert Jeffress, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Dallas

O.S. Hawkins will preach  
in both morning worship services.

First Baptist Dallas is located at 1701 Saw Jacinto Street, one mile from the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center.

## RECAP

cont. from p. 1

Toby Twining, now 59 years old, affirmed in his affidavit that Pressler touched him in a sexual way while the two were in a sauna in the late 1970s at a Houston-area country club.

Attorney Brooks Shotts, now 27 years old, in his separate affidavit said he resigned from Pressler's law firm in Houston after Pressler asked Shotts to join him and other men naked in a hot tub at Pressler's home.

"This invitation was clearly made in anticipation that I would engage in sexual activity," Shotts said in his affidavit.

The most recent accusations involving Pressler represent only one side of a legal argument. The 87-year-old Pressler has denied all accusations of sexual misconduct.

Paige Patterson, another important figure in the Conservative Resurgence who has been described as an influential member of the Pressler cohort, was fired last week from his position as president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth after inappropriate comments surfaced that he had made in the past regarding women, domestic violence, and the body of a female teenager.

Although Patterson protested that his words were taken out of context but still apologized for the comments, seminary trustees decided to sever all ties with him after accusations were made that he mishandled alleged on-campus

rape cases while he was president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and at Southwestern Seminary.

Frank S. Page, another luminary in the Conservative Resurgence orbit, on March 27 resigned his position as president and chief executive officer of the powerful Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville after confessing to a "personal failure."

Page, age 65, had served for a period as interim pastor of First Church, Jackson, while at the Executive Committee.

"Judgment has now come to the house of the Southern Baptist Convention," said R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in a May 23 internet commentary.

Mohler is himself a committed member of the Conservative Resurgence group within the convention.

"The terrible swift sword of public humiliation has come with a vengeance. There can be no doubt the story is not over... This moment requires the very best of us. The Southern Baptist Convention is on trial and our public credibility is at stake," he warned.

"May God have mercy on us all," Mohler pleaded.

**Editor's note:** William Perkins, editor of the Baptist Record, and Baptist Press contributed to this article.



PAGE



MOHLER

## MS POSITIONS

**SPRINGDALE CHURCH, RIPLEY, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER TO WORK WITH GRADES 7-COLLEGE AGE.** Housing is provided but not required if local. Send resume and testimony to [slmccs2003@yahoo.com](mailto:slmccs2003@yahoo.com) or mail it to Springdale Baptist Church 581 East Walnut Street Ripley, MS 38663.

**FBC OF WIGGINS IS TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR CHURCH SECRETARY.** Persons interested should have a relationship with Christ and should be technologically knowledgeable. Duties include: receptionist in the church office, maintaining and managing files, and assisting office personnel. Interested applicants are directed to email a resume to Rick Burris at [rick.burris22@gmail.com](mailto:rick.burris22@gmail.com).

**INDIAN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH IN LAUREL, MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR AND WORSHIP LEADER AND A FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR AND STUDENTS.** Send resumes to the Personnel Committee, Indian Springs Baptist Church, 500 Indian Springs Church Road, Laurel, MS 39443.

**DREW BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR—** Please email resume to [drewbaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:drewbaptistchurch@gmail.com) or U.S. mail to Drew Baptist Church, 139 S Church St., Drew, MS 38737.

**EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH OF INDIANOLA IS RECEIVING RESUMES FOR A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Resumes may be emailed to [williebetts2971@gmail.com](mailto:williebetts2971@gmail.com) or mailed to Eastwood Baptist Church P.O. Box 466 Indianola, MS 38751 ATTN: Music Search Committee.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAUREL, MS IS SEEKING AN EXPERIENCED, FULL-TIME YOUTH MINISTER.** Send Resumes to [nbstally@comcast.net](mailto:nbstally@comcast.net) or Nancy Billingsley at 20 Tallahoma West Laurel, MS 39440. For more information, visit the church website at <http://fbcl Laurel.org/youth-ministry/>

**SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR—BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH.** Located at Meridian, MS in the Wynnot community of Southern Lauderdale County. Please email resume to [office@wynnotbethany.org](mailto:office@wynnotbethany.org) or mail to Bethany Baptist Church, 4475 Ponds Road, Meridian, MS 39301.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**PULPIT SUPPLY AVAILABLE:** Retired Southern Baptist Pastor with 40 years full time pastoral experience. Graduate of New Orleans Baptist Seminary. Sunday pulpit supply, 100 miles radius of Laurel, MS. Contact at 601-381-3419 or 601-410-5893.

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## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org)



## Crowned • 2 Samuel 3:8-21

David ruled Judah for seven and one half years from Hebron. David's Kingdom flourished and his army grew stronger. 2 Samuel 5:1-3 (NIV) tells us about David being anointed as King of the United Kingdom:

"All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, 'We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.' When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a compact with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David King over Israel."

Today's study puts this anointing in context. We need to remember that the Prophet Samuel had already anointed the boy David as God's choice to follow King Saul. In 1 Samuel 16 you can read the details of Samuel's finding David and anointing him. Samuel had no question about God's choice since God said this about David, "He's the one! Get up and pour the olive oil on his head." Samuel poured the oil on David's head... At that moment, the Spirit of the LORD took control of David and stayed with him from then on." 1 Samuel 16:12-13. (CEV).

The palace intrigue involved in Israel's monarchy in today's study is sometimes raw immorality. But as always, God's Word is honest and thus trustworthy. Abner, who had been Saul's chief military officer and adviser, is exposed in an immoral sexual relationship with Saul's concubine, Rizpah. This was a power play to consolidate his power with the 11 tribes not yet under King David's rule. Abner was challenging the power of Ish-Bosheth (Saul's last living son whom Abner had put on Saul's throne).

In desperation, King Ish-Bosheth challenged Abner's open and immoral challenge to his rule. 2 Samuel 3:8-11 (NIV): "Abner was very angry... he answered... 'This very day I am loyal to the house of your father... I haven't handed you over to David. Yet now you accuse me of an offense involving this woman!... [I am going to] do for David what the LORD promised him on oath and transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and establish David's throne over Is-

rael and Judah... Ish-Bosheth did not dare to say another word to Abner, because he was afraid of him."

If any ruler fears their advisers and capitulates to them on any real challenge to the king's power, then the king's out of power. Abner immediately sent messengers to David offering him power over all of Israel and David accepted. But King David told Abner he could not come into his presence to finish negotiations until Abner brought Michal (King Saul's daughter) to him. Then David ordered the weakling Ish-Bosheth to send Michal to him and Ish-Bosheth immediately ordered Michal taken to David.

"When Abner, who had twenty men with him, came to David at Hebron, David prepared a feast for him and his men. Then Abner said to David 'let me go at once and assemble all Israel for my lord the king, so that they may make a compact with you, and that you may rule over all that your heart desires.' So David sent

Abner away, and he went in peace," 2 Samuel 3:20-21 (NIV). But all is not well because Joab, who has been David's military leader and Abner's rival, comes back to Hebron from a raid victorious with much plunder.

Joab, treacherously, goes behind David's back and calls Abner back to Hebron stabbing Abner to death. The immoral back stage politics continues and two low ranking officials in Ish-Bosheth court take advantage of his lack of courage and stab King Ish-Bosheth to death. The two men, who killed Ish-Bosheth, took his severed head to David expecting to be rewarded. David had them executed for killing the son of God's anointed king (King Saul).

At this point, all 12 tribes of Israel wanted David as King. Thus David was established on the Throne of Israel. Read what God says in the Old Testament: "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:... He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever," 2 Samuel 7:11-13 (NIV).

Jesus Christ is now on this throne for eternity!

Hicks is associational missions director for Jasper Association in Bay Springs.



### Explore the Bible

with Don Hicks

## Why Are We in This Mess? • Genesis 3:1-7, 14-19

Men and women were created in God's image to live in a relationship with Him. So why are we in this mess? Why do evil and wickedness abound? What happened?

**Genesis 3:1-7 We sin when we fail to keep God's commands.**

Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden where they could "be fruitful and multiply." Genesis 1:28 (NLT) Most of us would consider their circumstances to be ideal. "The serpent" (Genesis 3:1) approached Eve and asked, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" (Emphasis mine.) Eve's answer explained that there was only one tree that she and Adam were not to eat - "...the tree in the middle of the garden...you will die." Genesis 3:3 (NLT) The serpent whom we know to be Satan, or the devil, (Revelation 20:2 - NLT) proceeded to call God a liar: "You won't die...God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." Genesis 3:4-5 (NLT) The serpent deliberately twisted the truth.

The only negative command recorded in the account of creation is found in Genesis 2:16-17. God told the man and the woman not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good evil or they would die. Fellow-

shipping with God, talking to Him in the Garden (Genesis 3:8-13), why would Eve choose to believe the serpent rather than the Creator? "...everything in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life..." comes from the world, not from God. 1 John 2:16 (NLT) These three desires entice us to disobey a loving Father. Disobedience is sin, which separates us from God.

"The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful (lust of the eyes) and its fruit looked delicious (lust of the flesh), and she wanted the wisdom (pride of life) it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too." Genesis 3:6 (NLT) (Emphasis mine.)

All disobedience, breaking the commands of God, can be traced to one - or a combination of - these three desires: the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, the

pride of life. James tells us that we don't need the serpent to tempt us - though Satan does still tempt us: "Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away." James 1:14 (NLT)

**Genesis 3:14-15 The serpent will ultimately be defeated.**

God sentences the serpent to crawl on his belly and declares that the serpent and the offspring of the woman will be hostile to one another. Referring to the serpent's ultimate defeat by Jesus, Genesis 3:15b (NLT) is seen by many as the first prophetic promise: "He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." In Revelation 20, the devil (the serpent, the dragon, Satan) is defeated for good. John wrote that he saw an angel seize Satan and bind him for a thousand years. After the thousand years, Satan is released and "thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur... forever and ever." Revelation 20:10 (NLT)

### Bible Studies for Life

with Lisa Bannister



**Genesis 3:16-19 We experience the consequences of our sin.**

God punished Adam and Eve for their sin. Women experience pain in pregnancy and the desire to control their husbands. Men struggle to produce food. Men and women were banished from the Garden of Eden.

Blaming Adam and Eve for the state of our world would be an easy choice; however, who among us has not chosen to break God's commands? Little children do not have to be taught to lie, to be irrationally angry, or to take what they want. "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23 (NLT) I am not punished because Eve sinned; I am punished because I choose to break God's commands, and I must be held accountable. Our Hope: "Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in His sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty of our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood..." Romans 3:24 (NLT)

Bannister is a member of Woodville Church, Woodville.

## PATTERSON

cont. from p. 1

Ueckert's statement, but Patterson sent an e-mail to the chief of campus security that discussed meeting alone with the victimized student so he could "break her down" and "that he preferred no officials be present."

The attitude expressed by Dr. Patterson in that e-mail is

antithetical to the core values of our faith and to SWBTS," Ueckert's statement said.

Ueckert's statement also addressed a 15-page document released to media outlets May 31 in defense of Patterson by Sharayah Colter, a Southwestern Seminary student and wife of Patterson's former chief of staff Scott Colter.

Ueckert noted some of the material used by Colter was re-

leased without the permission of the students referenced in the documents or the leadership at Southeastern or Southwestern.

"I believe this was inappropriate and unethical," said Ueckert, noting the release of those documents does "not alter the decision of the executive committee."

Ueckert termed as "clear and unanimous" the decision of the

trustees' executive committee to immediately terminate Patterson.

"In this difficult situation, the executive committee based its decision on the current performance of the president and did not allow the legacy of Dr. Patterson or the #MeToo pressure to steer the outcome," Ueckert's statement pointed out.

"We did not react; rather, we decisively exercised our respon-

sibility based on the seminary's biblically informed core values and integrity.

"I also want to reiterate what SWBTS interim president Dr. Jeffrey Bingham said earlier this week. SWBTS denounces all abusive behavior, any behavior that enables abuse, any failure to protect the abused, and any failure to safeguard those who are vulnerable to abuse."

## Just for the Record



**UNION HALL CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, ordained Billy Martin and Dale Norton as deacons May 20. Hubert Buford was also activated as a deacon. Shown are Martin, Kay Martin, Buford, Darla Buford, Norton, and Debbie Norton, Nick Hodges, pastor.



Eric Ladd, **ANTIOCH CHURCH, MONTICELLO**, was called to the Gideons International Ministry in March.



**IMMANUEL CHURCH, GREENWOOD**, held its baby dedication May 13. Shown are Banks, Cooper William, and Callie Tucker; Lillie Claire and Kegan Cunningham and Josh Stewart; and Leighton, Sophie Allen, and TJ Nason.



**MT. ZION CHURCH, COLUMBUS**, celebrated its 175th anniversary Apr. 15, joined by current and former church members, current and former church staff, and many dignitaries. Attendees received a booklet about Mt. Zion and enjoyed lunch afterwards. Shown are former pastor David Skinner, current pastor Steve Lammons, and former pastor Ralph Windle.



**LITTLE BAHALA CHURCH, WESSON**, held a senior graduation day.



**TRINITY CHURCH, FULTON**, recognizes its high school graduates, shown with youth director Mark Robbins and David Haynes, pastor.

### In other Church News:

➤ **Broadmoor Church, Madison**, is hosting Night of Unity featuring Dathan Thigpen and Kayla Bailey Berry June 10, 6 p.m. For information, visit [www.embraceconference.info](http://www.embraceconference.info).

➤ **Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth**, is hosting former atheist Dave Glander June 10, 6:30 p.m. Glander is founder of Truth Ministries, Atlanta. He will be bringing a replica of the Shroud of Turin and speaking on the resurrection of Christ.

## Bible Drill Selection Tournament Winners

First Church, Clinton, April 28



### NINE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- First Place: Christopher Thompson, First Church, Jackson, Metro
- Second Place: Sarah Berry, First Church, Magee, Simpson
- Third Place: Hannah Mullins, McLaurin Heights Church, Rankin
- Fourth Place: Tucker Cain, Rocky Point Church, Leake



### HIGH SCHOOL SELECTION TOURNAMENT (GRADES 10 - 12)

- First Place [\$500]: Rachel Stephenson, Belden Church, Lee
- Second Place [\$300]: Thomas Webster, Midway Church, Lauderdale
- Third Place [\$200]: Rebecca Bell, Lollars Grove Church, Webster



### MIDDLE SCHOOL SELECTION TOURNAMENT (GRADES 6 - 9)

- First Place: Jake Ables, Pinelake Church, Rankin
- Second Place: Aaron Phillips, Hope Church, Meshoba
- Third Place: Breanna Nolen, Cleary Church, Rankin



### FRIENDS OF BIBLE DRILL

Don and Judy Hicks, shown receiving a plaque from Marcus Peagler, director, Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.